

IN MEMORIAM

John Busch, Previous AISC Board Chairman, Dies

John “Jack” Hilton Busch passed away on June 2. He was 87.

Born October 8, 1927 in East Grand Rapids, Mich., Busch enlisted in the United States Navy after graduating from high school, serving as a First Petty Officer on the U.S.S. Helena in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Following his service, he earned a civil engineering degree from Michigan State University and later earned a master’s in business administration from the University of Chicago.

Busch began his fabrication career with Haven-Busch Company, Inc., and later started his own company, Busch Industries, Inc., working on various domestic and international projects, including the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. A longtime AISC Board member and the Board Chair from 1983 through 1985, he enjoyed his work immensely and retired only a few months before his passing.

Past AISC president Lou Gurthet, who served as Busch’s vice president at Haven-Busch, recalled Busch’s love of AISC and the structural steel industry. “Jack’s dedication inspired my active participation in AISC and becoming president of the organization,” he said.

“Jack was a good engineer, an excellent businessman and a fantastic teacher,” said Char Frary Fabian, a project manager who

has been with Busch Industries for nearly two decades. “Everyone who worked for him, or with him, was improved in some way. Whether it was learning the correct way to take off steel, the proper way to fold a set of drawings, a reminder to put the date on everything or a life lesson, one could not leave an encounter with Jack without seeing some kind of improvement.”

A member of several professional and community organizations, he was passionate about the arts and supported various local, national and international artists, and was involved in bringing the sculpture *La Grande Vitesse*, by Alexander Calder, to his hometown of Grand Rapids.

Busch is survived by his sons Mike, James and Shane, grandsons John Michael Busch and James Busch, Jr. and granddaughter Katherine Busch. He was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine Christie Busch.



BOLTS

RCSC Posts Errata to Bolt Specification

The Research Council on Structural Connections (RCSC)—a nonprofit volunteer organization comprised of members in the fields of structural steel connection design, engineering, fabrication, erection and bolting—has posted errata (dated April 2015) to the August 1, 2014 RCSC *Specification* along with an

updated edition of the *Specification* at www.boltcouncil.org. The errata corrects a faying surface class in Section 3.2.2(3); coordinates installation of snug-tight fasteners in Section 8.1 with the definition of the term “snug-tight”; corrects Appendix A.4.2 to reflect changes in Section 5; and also corrects typographical errors.

NASCC

2015 NASCC Presentations Now Available Online

The more than 100 recorded sessions from the 2015 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Nashville are now available for free online viewing at www.aisc.org/2015nasconline. The recordings include a synchronization of the speak-

ers’ voices along with their visual presentations. You can also find multimedia proceedings for conferences since 2008 by visiting www.aisc.org/freepubs and clicking on “Steel Conference Proceedings” in the left-hand menu.

People and Firms

- **Lincoln Electric Company’s Duane Miller** was elected to the 2015 Class of Fellows of the **American Welding Society** this past spring. Nominated by the AWS Fellows Committee and approved for selection by the Districts Council, Miller was chosen in recognition for his significant achievements in the technical and research arenas that have enhanced the image and impact of the welding industry. He will be inducted with four of his peers during the AWS Annual Business Meeting on November 9 in Chicago, taking place in conjunction with the 2015 FABTECH conference.



- **JMC Steel Group**, which owns AISC member **Atlas Tube**, is making a significant investment in **VectorBloc**, a structural connection system for modular construction. Developed by **Vector Praxis**, it uses hollow structural sections (HSS) as the structural members of the modules. The main purpose of JMC’s investment is to develop the system’s potential in the modular construction marketplace.
- Seattle-based **Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA)** has announced that **Dave Fields, S.E.**, has been promoted to senior principal and shareholder, and **Matt Jones, P.E.**, and **Tom Meyer, S.E.**, have both been promoted to principal.

Over the Line

Regarding your June editor's note on "booth babes," if attractive and scantily clad women at a technical conference are the same as "cheerleaders at a sporting event," then where are the young, muscle-bound men wearing tight pants? I can't believe that someone made this argument with a straight face. This is exactly why women are still subject to sexual harassment and gender bias in this industry. If your 12-year-old daughter was walking around the conference, how would you explain to her the purpose of the "booth babes?"

The reason booth babes are not acceptable, but street performers or sketch artists are, is that the "entertainment" provided by the booth babes is simply the objectification of women. It gives the message that ogling women is accepted, that it is OK to judge a woman based on her attractiveness and that women are there for "entertainment." That is incredibly insulting and offensive to the women that work in this profession and want to be seen for their skills, experiences and merits. This practice may have been accepted

within the industry in the past, but it's 2015. I can't believe this is still even a conversation.

—*Samantha Kevern, S.E., P.E.*
Project Engineer, HNTB
Kansas City

The issue you raise is one that has no answer but often results in solutions based on emotion rather than logic. Although we all start with the basic principle that we strongly oppose the exploitation of women, there is no uniform definition of the outer boundaries of that concept.

As an example, last October, Ted Bishop, the elected president of the Professional Golfers Association of America, was getting a great deal of flack about his appointment of Tom Watson as captain of the Ryder Cup team. After a social media exchange with PGA member Ian Poulter, Bishop tweeted Poulter telling him to stop whining like a "lil girl." This tweet became public and the PGA's board of directors demanded that Bishop resign

even though he had less than two months to go on his term of office; his PGA membership was terminated as well. It would be interesting to find out if the PGA permits "booth babes" at its annual trade show.

There is a line of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) cases that appear to define "inappropriate behavior" as any behavior with any sexual- or gender-based connotations that the party being addressed believes is "inappropriate." But in my experience there is such a wide range of opinion from person to person that you never can be sure of what the person who you are addressing really thinks. Bottom line, if you have any doubt that something might be construed as inappropriate or think that the other party might see it that way, don't do it or don't say it. I agree with AISC's conclusion: "Booth babes" should be out.

—*Steven John Fellman*
GKG Law, P.C., General Counsel for
the Association of Union Constructors
(TAUC)
Washington, D.C.

IN MEMORIAM

Fire Code Expert Richard C. Schulte Dies at 60

Fire code consultant Richard C. Schulte, a 2006 AISC Special Achievement Award winner honored for bringing rationality to the discussion of the 9/11 destruction of the World Trade Center, died on May 11 after a battle with cancer. He was 60 years old.

"I came to know Rich at a time when the engineering profession and building construction community were grappling with the events, experiences and lessons of our collective building performance experience on 9/11," said Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D., AISC vice president and chief structural engineer. "Rich was level-headed and a visionary in his relentless writing about the subject and relevant facts from the history

of building safety. He evaluated facts, dispelled fears, established context and always gave an unbiased opinion. I very much respected his willingness to oppose special interests and question unsupported claims and conclusions, all with the utmost professionalism."

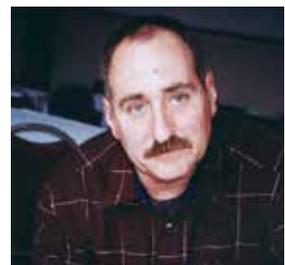
"He spoke out because it was the right thing to do," added fire protection engineer Carl F. Baldassarra, a principal at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. "Rich was fascinated by the history of the fire protection engineering profession. He spent considerable time in the libraries of NFPA and Underwriters Laboratories reading about the development of the technology and the codes and standards governing construction

of fire safe buildings, many of which remain in use today."

In 2003, AISC distributed a 38-page booklet *Fire Protection—Articles from The Plumbing Engineer* [F028-03] comprised of various articles written by Schulte for *Plumbing Engineer*. The 13 detailed

articles
provide
in-depth
analysis on
fire protection
issues.

Schulte
is survived
by his son,
William.



NSSBC

University of Florida Brings the Heat at the 2015 National Student Steel Bridge Competition

A team of 12 students from the University of Florida constructed the winning bridge in the 2015 ASCE/AISC National Student Steel Bridge Competition (NSSBC), hosted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City, May 22-23. Second place overall went to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and École de technologie supérieure, Montreal, Québec, took home third.

Nearly 600 students from 47 participating colleges and universities—narrowed down from 18 regional competitions throughout the spring—competed in the 24th annual national championship. The competition is an exciting visual display of students' structural design and analysis skills at work. Teams are challenged to design, fabricate and construct their own one-tenth-scale steel bridge in the shortest time and under specific building constraints that reflect real-life structural specifications and construction regulations.

This is the second time UF has won the national title; the school's first win was in 1997.

"This is the greatest accomplishment I've had since attending the University of Florida," said Justin Rayl, a fourth-year civil engineering student and captain of the UF steel bridge team. "We had a very strong team. Everyone was willing to put 110% effort into every aspect of the bridge, whether it was the design, jig set-up or fabrication. Countless hours were put into the bridge by every member of the team, and we had great support from our faculty advisors."

Rayl also credits the team's win to taking the time to perfect its bridge assembly. "By the time we left for nationals, we probably assembled the bridge 100 times," he explained. "I have to give credit to our entire team for being at every practice to watch the assembly team build the bridge and then disassemble it for us to do all over again. It was a team effort to get our finished product at nationals."

"I truly believe that the NSSBC is a program that is actively building better engineers for the future," added Christopher C. Ferraro P.E., Ph.D., faculty advisor for the UF steel bridge team and research assistant professor at the university's engineering school of sustainable infrastructure and environment. "Students learn about real-world concepts and the creation of a final product that is displayed and evaluated for performance. I've been fortunate enough to attend the NSSBC three times in my career and my favorite part of the event is the people. Although we're all competing with each other, I enjoy the conversations and get to witness students discussing the culture of their school, exchanging ideas and sharing 'war stories' from the competition."

Bridge rankings were based on the categories of construction speed, stiffness, lightness, economy, display and efficiency. The teams with the best combined rankings across all categories earn overall award recognition.



The top three winners in each category were:

➤ **Construction Speed**

1. SUNY Canton
2. University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. California Polytechnic State University, SLO

➤ **Stiffness**

1. George Mason University
2. California State University, Northridge
3. Université Laval

➤ **Lightness**

1. University of Florida
2. New Jersey Institute of Technology
3. University of Texas - San Antonio

➤ **Economy**

1. SUNY Canton
2. SUNY at Buffalo
3. University of Wisconsin-Madison

➤ **Display**

1. Clemson University
2. Milwaukee School of Engineering
3. University of Wisconsin-Madison

➤ **Efficiency**

1. University of Florida
2. California Polytechnic State University, SLO
3. École de technologie supérieure

Throughout the academic year, student teams work for months perfecting the design, fabrication and construction of each bridge. To reach the national event, each team must place among the top schools in one of 18 regional competitions held across the country each year. This year, about 200 college and university teams from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, China and the United Arab Emirates participated in the regional competitions.

“It’s exciting to watch the next generation of structural engineers come together and work with such passion and enthusiasm,” said Nancy Gavlin, AISC director of education. “The competition poses real-world challenges that the students face with ingenuity and professionalism.”

The NSSBC is sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction in cooperation with the American Society of Civil Engineers and is cosponsored by Bentley, DS SolidWorks, Nucor, the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Steel Bridge Alliance, the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, the Steel Structures Education Foundation and the American Galvanizers Association.

The complete competition rankings are available at www.nssbc.info. Photos from this year’s competition can be found on AISC’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AISCdotORG).

Next year’s NSSBC will be held May 27-28 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. To learn more about the competition, please visit www.aisc.org/nssbc or www.nssbc.info.

Photos: Bart Quimby

